

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:727
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA DISEASE
Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of people in our country suffer from Sickle Cell Anaemia Disease (SCAD);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to check the disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sickle cell anaemia disease (SACD) is a hereditary blood disorder caused due to defective hemoglobin structure resulting in early destruction of RBC's and resulting in anemia. It is estimated almost 5-6000 newborn are born with SCAD every year.

(c) The India Council of Medical Research has recently completed a multicentric study on sickle cell anemia amongst primitive tribes from four States, i.e. Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Under this project simple intervention methods to reduce the sickle cell crisis in the affected individuals was adapted, which included Folic acid and iron tablets to be given to cases of nutritional anemia and SCAD with iron deficiency, electrolyte powder and plenty of fluid during crises, preventive vaccines (Hepatitis

B, H influenza and pneumococcus) to all children with SCAD. Genetic counselling has been offered to affected population. State Governments have been requested to implement these intervention methods in the respective States.